

WATER REUSE

REQUEST

Support increased federal funding of the Title 16 Program and EPA Research Grant Program needed to support the further development of Reuse Water as a key water management strategy.

Water reuse is an important water management strategy to help meet the growing demands being placed on available water supplies in Texas and across the nation. Water reuse is becoming increasingly accepted for a wide variety of direct applications, including landscape and agricultural irrigation, toilet and urinal flushing, industrial processing, power plant cooling, wetland habitat creation, restoration and maintenance, and groundwater recharge. Additionally, augmentation of potable water supplies through indirect applications of Reclaimed Water (i.e., blending Reclaimed Water with raw water in a reservoir or other water body) is playing an important role in meeting water supply demands in Texas.

Reuse Water is identified in year 2002 State Water Plan as providing on the order of seven percent of the water required to meet Texas water needs in year 2050. The 2002 Plan identified 35 projects that would cost on the order of \$1.1 billion dollars. In Texas, during the last five years there have been about 30 applications submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to secure the permits for the right to use Reuse Water in indirect applications. The quantity of Reclaimed Water associated with these permit applications is on the order of 700,000 acre-feet. According to projections for an updated year 2007 plan, water reuse will be more critical to meeting the water needs across Texas. The 2007 State Water Plan, currently being prepared, will indicate that more than one million acre-feet/year of reuse water is anticipated to be used to meet the state's water demands. In the North Central Texas area about 25 to 30 percent of the future water needs will be met by Reuse Water. There are numerous planned and operating major Reuse Water projects in cities across Texas including Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio, Austin, Odessa, Lubbock, Amarillo, and others. Additionally, several of the major water suppliers (i.e., special water districts or River Authorities) are actively involved in the operations and/or planning of Reuse Water projects including Tarrant Regional Water District, North Texas Municipal Water District, Trinity River Authority of Texas, Colorado River Municipal Water District, Brazos River Authority, Lower Colorado River Authority, and others.

Major considerations that must be addressed to successfully maximize the use of Reuse Water include performing research needed to develop sound science and technology, providing funding support for implementation of the projects, and gaining public support. In order to address these considerations, federal funding is needed to support the further development of Reuse Water as a key water management strategy. Possible avenues for providing the federal funding include the Title 16 Program and EPA Research Grant Program. Addressing these considerations would not only benefit Texas but would provide a benefit for implementing Reuse Water across the United States.